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SUBJECT: ZAGREB WEEKLY REPORT- OCTOBER 16, 2009

11. (U) AMBASSADOR FOR WAR CRIMES ISSUES VISITS ZAGREB:
Ambassador Stephen Rapp visited Zagreb on October 11-13 and met with the Minister of Justice, Minister of the Interior, and Chief State Prosecutor, among others. The focus of the visit was on Croatia's cooperation with ICTY and the newly announced task force, led by police investigators and chaired by the Director of the Criminal Police Vitomir Bijelic, to conduct a follow-up investigation into missing documents requested by ICTY for the Gotovina case. Ambassador Rapp also discussed ICTY cooperation and its impact on Croatia's EU accession at a lunch with several EU ambassadors. Additional details to follow SEPTEL. (CZIMMER)

12. (SBU) CROATIANS WARMING TO KOSOR IN FIRST 100 DAYS:
Recent polling shows that Prime Minister Kosor exceeded the expectations of more than 1/3 of those polled in her first 100 days. Another third said she fully met their expectations in leading the government. More than 56% of respondents said Kosor performed better than her predecessor, Ivo Sanader. Local media speculated that, since Kosor is now more popular than her party, the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ), and several of her ministers, Kosor will soon move to reshuffle her government. For her part, Kosor has insisted that she is focused on negotiating the 2010 budget with her current team. HDZ General Secretary Branko Bacic, in a recent conversation with PolOff, echoed these sentiments, saying that, while Kosor was fully empowered to make a change at her discretion if ministers were not performing, the main priority was negotiating next year's budget. Bacic, however, did not rule out the possibility of a cabinet reshuffle in the future, presumably after the government finalizes the 2010 budget. (DMEGES)

13. (U) CROATIA'S PARTICIPATION IN KFOR CONTINUES:
On October 12 the Ministry of Defense announced that it had sent a fresh deployment of 20 troops to replace those already serving with two helicopters in KFOR. The Croatian Air Force's participation in KFOR is the first time they have been deployed outside of Croatia. The troops and helicopters are located at Camp Bondsteel. (PDAMICO)

14. (U) CROATIAN PEACEKEEPERS TRAINED TO OPERATE IN URBAN AREAS:
From October 12-16, US instructors trained 30 representatives of the Croatian military on how to conduct military operations in urban areas. The Croatian soldiers attending the course will directly utilize the techniques gained in this realistic training when deployed as part of Croatia's on-going peacekeeping contributions. The event was funded by the Global Peacekeeping Operations Initiative (GPOI) program. (PDAMICO)
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